Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10132 071019Z

22
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 /018 W
---------- 097125
R 070936Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9455

UNCLAS TEHRAN 10132

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, IR
SUBJ: U.S.-IRAN TRADE LEVEL

REF: (A) USDOC 17240, (B) TEHRAN A-177

1. EMBASSY ALSO HAS BEEN OBSERVING THE DECLINING LEVEL OF US EXPORTS TO IRAN, NOTED IN REF A. EMBASSY MEMORANDUM DATED SEPTEMBER 30 ON IRAN'S IMPORTS DISTRIBUTED TO NEA/IRN, CAGNE AND TREASURY, DISCUSSES THE CONFLICTING STATISTICAL PICTURE ON IMPORTS AS WELL AS ANALYZES THE DECLINING LEVEL. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE WIDER DISTRIBUTION, THIS MEMORANDUM HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO A-177 OF OCTOBER 7 ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. EMBASSY HOPES TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON IMPORT REGISTRATIONS WHICH SHOULD SHED SOME LIGHT ON TRENDS BY CATEGORIES OF GOODS.

2. AFOREMENTIONED MEMORANDUM INCLUDES UNCONFIRMED DATA OBTAINED FROM TEHRAN EMBASSIES OF SOME OF IRAN'S PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS (FRANCE, GERMANY AND JAPAN) AND INDICATES VARYING TRENDS THIS YEAR, BUT ALL BELOW EXPORT GROWTH RATES OF 1975. BASICALLY, GERMANY AND FRANCE ARE UP AND JAPAN AND THE US ARE DOWN. USDOC SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO OECD TRADE DATA AND PERHAPS CAN EXAMINE ITS TREND BY COUNTRY AND CATEGORY COMPOSITION TO EXPLAIN CHANGING PATTERN. EMBASSY HAS REPORTED ITS ANTICI-PATION THAT IRAN'S IMPORT GROWTH WOULD DECREASE THIS YEAR SINCE THE 50 PERCENT INCREASE, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS, OF LAST IRANIAN YEAR OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT BE REPEATED. FOUR MONTHS IRANIAN YEAR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DATA (REF B) INDICATE A 6.3 PERCENT DECLINE IN IMPORT PAYMENTS FROM LAST YEAR.
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 10132 071019Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

3. TURNING SPECIFICALLY TO US EXPORT FIGURES, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT BY EXAMINING DETAIL OF BUREAU OF CENSUS FIGURES IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO SEE IF THE USUALLY SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE OF SPECIAL CATEGORY COMMODITIES EXPLAINS AT LEAST IN PART THE DECLINE IN US EXPORTS. OTHERWISE, WE HAVE NO BASIS AT THIS TIME ON WHICH TO ESTIMATE ANY SHIFT IN US SHARE OF THE IRANIAN MARKET APART FROM THE SUGESTED EXAMINATION OF OECD EXPORTS.

OUR A-84, REPORTING ON 1975 IMPORTS, SHOWED THE US SHARE OF NON-MILITARY IMPORTS 20 PERCENT. THE OTHER 10 PERCENT, ASSUMED TO REPRESENT MILITARY GOODS, MAY BE THE CHIEF VARIABLE THIS YEAR.
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Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
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